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PRESS RELEASE

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The DC Center Announces New Location for New Year

New, temporary location offers several improvements as The DC Center continues to work towards a permanent home.

Washington, DC: The DC Center, Washington DC's lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community center, is pleased to announce their new location effective January 1, 2010.

The DC Center will move to 1804 and 1810 14th Street, which are two adjacent buildings known to many LGBT residents at the former homes of the Lesbian Services Program and Austin Center at Whitman-Walker Clinic.

Both buildings are owned by development company JBG Properties. Due to the current economic climate which has prevented immediate development, JBG Properties has generously offered the space to the DC Center on a temporary basis. The DC Center will remain at this location until JBG Properties is ready to redevelop the space.

The DC Center's Executive Director David Mariner stated: "This new location is more visible, more accessible, and nearly twice the size of our current office suite. Still, this space is a temporary solution, and we continue to work towards the goal of a permanent home for the LGBT Community in DC."

"All of us at the Center greatly appreciate the generosity of JBG Properties, as well as City Council Member David Catania's ongoing support & City Council Member Jim Graham's personal coordination, helping us secure the space."

Council Members Graham and Catania provided input in The DC Center's search for a new location after the Council and Mayor Fenty cut \$500,000 in capital funds for the DC Center from the district budget. The DC government also cut \$150,000 in funding for the DC Center Crystal Meth Working Group, the only substance abuse prevention program for adults funded in the District of Columbia.

Unlike LGBT community centers in other cities across the country, the DC Center currently receives no support from the local government.

“Our long term hope, of course, is that the city officials will understand the importance of an LGBT community center and follow the lead of other cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago by investing in their local community center.” stated Mariner.

The DC Center's mission is to celebrate, strengthen, and support community among the LGBT residents and organizations of Metropolitan Washington, DC. Programs of The DC Center include: Career Development, The Elder Think Tank, The DC Crystal Meth Working Group, DC for Marriage, Fight HIV in DC, the Outwrite Author Series, CenterArts, and the Tobacco Working Group. GLOV (Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence) also operates as a task force of The DC Center. Find out more at www.thedccenter.org.

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